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**From:** Tyler Hamman  
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Hi Caroline – I hope you are doing well. Members of the Lignite Energy Council will be in Washington, DC on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, and I am writing to request a meeting with Secretary Zinke on their behalf. LEC members produce 4,000 megawatts of electricity from lignite coal that serves 2 million customers throughout the upper Midwest and eastern Montana. We also represent several hundred businesses that support the coal mining and power industries and contribute significantly to the regional economy. We also expect a representative of the Montana Coal Council to be with us.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a number of issues impacting the lignite industry, and the role that various Department of the Interior agencies have with respect to surface coal mining in North Dakota. We'd appreciate the opportunity to meet with the Secretary and/or members of his team to introduce ourselves, and provide some background on our industry. Would he have any availability on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>? We're currently available to meet any time that day.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and please let me know if you need additional information.

-Tyler

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